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BARRICK

BARRICK RESOURCES (USA), INC.

March 5, 1992

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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Mr. Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director
Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Dear Mr. Ostler:

Subject: Docket Number GW92-02, Notice of Violation and Order

Barrick Resources (USA), Inc. ("Barrick") received on February 28, 1992, the above referenced notice of violation and order. In response to paragraph 3 of the order, Barrick submits the following information:

1. The saddle dam seepage containment pond is an integral safety component of the impoundment. The pond has been designed and engineered to contain solution from the saddle dam internal filter (chimney) dewatering drains. The pond also contains associated saddle dam foundation area inflows and both direct precipitation and lined pipeway conveyance runoff. All contained solutions are routinely returned to the tailings impoundment for recirculation to the beneficiation process.

2. There were two basic functions addressed in the design of the reclaim cell. The first was to provide a clear water pond for recirculation to the beneficiation circuit. The second was to provide a solution infiltration sump for the tailings deposited subaerially upstream of the rockfill level.

   Subaerial tailings deposition provides excellent clarification within the main impoundment solution pond, thus minimizing the clarifying function of the reclaim cell. The critical solution infiltration sump function is fully utilized and will continue as the tailings deposition progresses.

   The reclaim cell also collects direct precipitation and intercepts runoff from the construction area immediately adjacent to the reclaim cell.

3. Pumping of the saddle dam catchment pond and the reclaim water cell has been initiated. Ongoing pumping of the

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saddle dam containment pond and reclaim water cell will continue on a routine basis, initially as directed by Barrick operating personnel and ultimately on an automated basis. Installation and operation of upgraded pumping systems for both sites are anticipated no later than June 1, 1992. All pumping activities are directed to achieve the greatest dewatering extent practicable.

4. The described operations and operational pumping procedures do not constitute storage or treatment of waste but rather interim containment and recirculation of process water and incidental precipitation. Both the reclaim cell and the seepage collection pond are surge members within the tailings water system, and their use as such enables the safe management of tailings storage and water recirculation.

In response to paragraph 4 of the order, Barrick submits the following information.

The original ten-inch reclaim water line has been capped with blind flanges at the reclaim cell inlet and the valve pit outlet. This line cannot be physically removed and will remain capped but serviceable until utilization during impoundment facility closure dewatering and reclamation.

Please contact me should you have any questions concerning this response. Additional information from Barrick is currently being prepared and will be submitted according to or in advance of the notice schedule.

The information contained in this letter shall not be deemed to be an admission of liability by Barrick.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Wicks
Vice President and General Manager

FDW/cg

cc: Ken Alkema, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Doug Crudell, Asst. Attorney General
Ken Bousefield, Division of Drinking Water Quality
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
Glade Shelly, Utah County Health Dept.
Joe Trujillo, Tooele County Health Dept.
Lucy Jenkins, Parsons Behle & Latimer